SUNDAY: MAY TWENTY-NINTH

THEME: *The Inspiration of Memorial Day* (Memorial Day).

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READING: Rev. 14:1-20.

SELECTED HYMNS: "For all the saints who from their labors rest."—William W. How. "God the All-terrible."—H. F. Chorley. "God of our fathers."—Daniel C. Roberts. "My country, 'tis of thee."—S. F. Smith. "From all thy saints in warfare."—Earl Nelson.

SALUTATION: "Come, behold the works of the Lord . . . he maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." Psa. 84:8-10.

INVOCATION PRAYER (Memorial Sunday): O God, our loving Father, it is very mysterious and wonderful, and sometimes it is awe-inspiring and overwhelming when we remember that in thee we live and move and have our being. Such knowledge is too great for us, we cannot attain unto it. But as best we know how we come unto thee to-day to worship thee, to let thee have thy way in us. And as we worship renew our spiritual lives, deepen our faith, cleanse us from all sin, clear our visions, give us the guidance of thy Spirit.

We pray that each one of us may be enabled to receive thy ministry according to the need of each. May those who are weary find refreshment. And may those who are discouraged receive encouragement. Give peace unto those who are restless. Grant comfort unto those who mourn. Bind up those who are wounded. Cleanse those who are sin-smirched. Steady those who are shaken by storm. Lift up those who are depressed. Strengthen the weak. Give courage to the faint-hearted. Bless the poor. Reveal thyself and the need of the world unto the rich. Rejoice with those whose lives are full of joy. Cause the children to grow up into noble Christian manhood and beautiful Christian womanhood. May the stranger in the house feel his heart warmed and not feel himself a stranger toward thee.

Make our lives beautiful, powerful, fruitful. Help us to make our daily tasks the means of serving thee. May our homes and school-rooms, our shops and our offices, have altars as well as our church.

Hear our intercession. We desire an abundance of thy grace to fill the lives of the officers of this church. Use every member to advance thy kingdom. Give good success to every enterprise that makes for thy rule in the hearts of men. Hasten the day when the whole earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

As we approach another Memorial Day we hold in loving memory the lives of loved ones who have gone before us. We thank thee for their gracious influence, for our assurance of their immortality, and the glorious

hope that we shall again see them face to face. We thank thee for the heroism and self-sacrifice of those who have defended our flag and country. We are inspired by their courage and stimulated unto nobler living by the presence of many of them. Grant to each veteran of our country's wars a portion of thy grace. May we soon learn a better way of living than by war—help us all to make peace.

Bless America. Make her among the nations as the dawn ushering in a day of righteousness and as a torch passing on the salvation of our God. Amen.—Rev. M. K. W. Heicher, Ph.D.

THE SERMON

TITLE: *The Inspiration of Memorial Day* (Memorial Sunday).

TEXT: "And I looked and beheld a white cloud and upon it sat one like—" Rev. 14:13.

THE SERMON OUTLINE

INTRODUCTORY: At this Memorial season, when the whole nation assembles to pay tribute to the memory of our heroes who fell on the high places of the field, let me call to your remembrance the singular vision which some of them saw or believed they saw while they were fighting in Flanders—a White Christ, outlined on the clouds, beckoning them to victory. Was that an optical illusion? Not all who fought in Flanders professed to see it. There were all sorts of soldiers, you understand; but the vision was only for those who were animated by love of country and love of God.

But did they really see it? Shall we come down from the Mount of Vision to quibble about optics? Is the body more real than the soul? Enter into thy closet and shut to the door, and open thy heart and say if the White Christ is not more real than hands and feet. The question is not whether the supernatural is real, but whether we can naturalize the supernatural by translating it into the terms of common life. When the disciples come down from Hermon, will their characters reflect the glory they witness in the Master's face? That is the question. Will the men who have lived through Flanders to these piping times of peace carry into their homes, their business and their citizenship the worship of him to whom they lifted hands of supplication beyond the seas?

The sound of muffled drums called me to my window to see a company of soldiers passing by with guns reversed, when suddenly the drums gave way to the triumphant music of "Onward, Christian Soldiers!" This is the lesson of Memorial Day and the call of the brave, as I understand it.

In the ruins of Ross Castle at Killarney are the graves of the ancient kings of Ireland. On their tombstones may still be deciphered the symbols of royalty; but close beside them are other monuments, marked with the transverse sword and cross. "These," said the guide, "are the tombs of crusaders."

OFFERTORY PRAYER: Help us, our Father, first to consecrate our own selves unto thee, then bring an offering and come into thy courts. Receive and bless our gifts we now present. Use them for the extension of thy kingdom. May we all be helpers of that kingdom, we ask through Christ, the Lord. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we bless thee that thou hast cast our lot in this land of civil and religious liberty. We bless thee for the flag that stands as a symbol of such exalted privileges. We pray, O God, that wherever the flag of this nation is unfurled it may be indeed the emblem of liberty, justice and truth. Give to all who enjoy its protection the blessings of progress, of peace, of education and religion. May its white speak to us of purity, its red of that glowing zeal which pleaseth thee, and its blue of the eternal home beyond the stars. May it help all humanity toward the attainment of the true brotherhood, and so hasten the time when the power of the Gospel shall bring all nations and kindreds and people under the dominion of Him who is the King of kings and Lord of lords. We ask all in the name of Christ. Amen.

ILLUSTRATIVE MATERIAL

Seed Thoughts

But Oh for the touch of a vanished hand, and the sound of a voice that is still!—Tennyson.

To live in hearts we leave behind,
Is not to die.

—Campbell

Grant but memory to us, and we can lose nothing by death.—Whittier.

Memory is the treasure-house of the mind, wherein the monuments thereof are kept and preserved.—Thomas Fuller.

"The sweet remembrance of the just
Shall flourish when he sleeps in dust."

The leaves of memory seem to make a mournful rustle in the dark.—Longfellow.

When musing on companions gone,
We doubly feel ourselves alone.

—Scott.

While memory watches o'er the sad review of joys that faded like the morning dew.—Campbell.

The truest patriotism has its source in the honor of God.

MEMORIAL DAY TEXTS AND THEMES

The Veteran as an Oracle: 2 Sam. 16:23.
A Memorial of Liberty: "What mean ye by these stones?"—Josh. 4:21.
The Christian a Soldier: 2 Tim. 2:3, 14.
The Christian Warfare: "I have fought a good fight."—2 Tim. 4:7.

A Sermon of the Sword: "The sword of the Spirit which is the word of God."—Eph. 6:17.

The Great Service: "Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon caused his army to serve a great service," etc.—Ezek. 29:18-20.

A Nation's Tribute to Its Heroic Dead: "This day shall be unto you for a memorial."—Exod. 12:14.

America the Wonderland: "Thou shalt bless the Lord thy God, for the good land which he hath given thee."—Deut. 8:10.

Brave Leaders and Brave Men: "Amasiah, the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself unto the Lord, and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valor."—2 Chron. 17:16.

Our Heroes and Our Heritage: "I will give it you for a heritage; I am the Lord."—Exod. 7:8.

God's Minute-Men: "I am ready."—Rom. 7:15.

Peace Among Nations: Isa. 2:4.

The Reign of Peace: Rev. 21:1-8.

The International Court: "He shall judge among the nations."—Isa. 2:4.

Flowers for Memorial Day: "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits?"—Psa. 116:12.

CHOICE ILLUSTRATIONS ON THE THEME

"There Blossoms Red Life That Shall Endless Be"

"Upon the ground where the battle of Bull Run was fought," said a tourist, "I saw pretty, pure, delicate flowers growing out of the empty ammunition boxes, a wild rose thrusting up its graceful head through the top of a broken Union drum, and a sweet scented scarlet verbena peeping out of a fragment of an exploded shell." Even so shall the blessings of peace spring up in the track of "devouring campaigns" that carry all before them. Ah, yes, the blessings of peace are surely coming, because the world is becoming civilized and war is not a civilized method of settling disputes!

Old Story and New Glory

A soldier was bending over his wounded comrade on a battlefield of France. The fallen man had received his death wound and his mind was wandering; but his attention was caught by a little flag pinned on the breast of his chum. It brought him back to consciousness for a moment and he murmured, "Old Glory." The man bending above him said tenderly, "Yes, Bill, old boy, but it's new glory now, you know."

The task of the church is to bring the new glory—the kingdom of God—on earth. It is to be done by bringing all men to obey the law of God. Jesus summed up the whole of this moral law in two sentences. What then is our great task? Is it not to bring all men to love God and one another?

Harry Lauder at His Son's Grave

Laughing Harry Lauder stood by the grave of his boy and said, "Oh, God, that I could have one request, it would be that I might embrace my